

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 31 were pending in the application. By way of this amendment, certain non-elected claims that are inconsistent with the amendments to independent claim 10 have been cancelled. New claims 32 to 35 have been added to further define the invention. These new claims are directed to the elected subject matter. Thus, claims 10, 13-15, 20, 25, and 31-35 are pending.

The Applicants hereby affirm the oral election made on February 6, 2004.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the information cited in the information disclosure statements and the Interview which was conducted on May 4. At the interview, it was agreed that the subject matter of amended claim 10 (which was the subject matter of claim 12, now cancelled) is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art, and is therefore allowable over the prior art. The Applicants are amending claim 10 at this time in order to have a patent issue quickly that will cover their commercial product. The Applicants respectfully disagree with statements in the office action that claims 10, 12 through 15, and 17 through 19 are unpatentable.

Because claim 10 is allowable, all claims dependent thereon are allowable.

Because new claim 33 recites "a coagulant patch at a side of the pressure element, the coagulant patch being detachable from the pressure element . . . placing the coagulant patch in contact with a skin surface comprising said puncture wound . . . removing the pressure element while permitting the coagulant patch to remain seated at the puncture wound when the pressure element is removed" claim 33 is also patentable.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

5/10/04

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